



# PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

prepared & empowered

August 21, 2019

Dear Deering Families:

I am writing to let you know that Principal Palmer has notified me that he intends to accept a position elsewhere. A formal announcement is forthcoming next week. As a result, he will not be returning as Principal of Deering High School and will not be leading school year opening activities. His departure will be a loss to the Deering High community, but we wish him the best in taking on a new challenge.

As the new school year is about to start, I want to reassure you that Deering High School has put in place a solid school success plan for the year focused on creating a safe, secure and inclusive school and a strong Deering identity. The plan, which was developed by building administrators and teacher leaders, sets the direction for the school and addresses areas of needed improvement.

I, along with members of my team, will serve as an integral part in the transition, while I solidify a more permanent structure and leadership for Deering. For the immediate future, I have appointed Vice Principals Dr. Abdullahi Ahmed and Alyson Dame as acting co-principals. In addition, Jim Moses, former Vice-Principal at Deering will serve as the acting Vice-Principal.

I have spent time talking with teacher leaders at Deering and will continue to work with them as we finalize plans for this coming year. As always, I have been impressed with their sense of agency and their commitment to our students and their school.

I promise that we will be thoughtful, deliberative, and transparent in hiring a new Principal for Deering. I will work with faculty and staff, parents, and students in this process which will kick off in January with a target date of early April for a Board appointment. If you would like to be involved or have questions, please send me an email at [superintendent@portlandschools.org](mailto:superintendent@portlandschools.org) or call me at 207-874-8111.

It is a great pleasure to welcome back both returning families and those who are new to Deering. I look forward to working with you throughout the year to ensure the success of all our students.

Sincerely,

Xavier Botana, Superintendent  
#DeeringProud